

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-11, 14-25, 27, 29-32, 34-44, 46-56, 60-62, 67-76 and 79-80 are pending in the present application. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowance of Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-11, 14-25, 27, 29-32, 34-44, 46-56, 60-62 and 67-76 and the indication that Claims 79-80 are allowable if placed in independent form. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending Claims in view of the amendments to the Claims and the following remarks.

The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Claim Rejection

Pending Claim 78 stands rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.K. Patent Application No. 2 322 248A to Fujitsu Limited with inventor Ken Hashimoto (hereinafter "Hashimoto") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,774,802 to Tell et al. (hereinafter "Tell").

Applicant has canceled Claim 78 and amended corresponding dependent Claims 79 and 80 to include the limitations of canceled Claim 78. Claims 79 and 80 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim. Accordingly, Claims 79 and 80 are allowable in their present form and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of Claims 79 and 80.

Co-Pending Commonly-Owned Application

In an abundance of caution, Applicant hereby discloses for the Examiners review commonly owned and co-pending patent application U.S. Serial No. 09/980,434. U.S. Serial No. 09/980,434 was filed on November 28, 2001.

Conclusion

Based on the claim amendments and remarks, the application is believed to now be in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner deem a telephone conference to be beneficial in expediting allowance/examination of this

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application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanders N. Hillis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

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